

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Siberia)

DATE DISTR. 18 MAY 51

SUBJECT 1. Ports of Igarka and Dudinka

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Igarka

1. About 14 foreign ships, the largest of which was up to 10,000 tons, were chartered by the Soviets in July 1950 to load timber at Igarka (67-30N, 86-35E). There was no indication that the Soviets considered confiscating the ships. In addition, there were usually two Soviet Liberty-type ships at a time discharging general cargo at Igarka during the late summer of 1950. 50X1-HUM
2. Timber was handled ashore by modern gasoline and diesel camels and was loaded by the ships' gear. Full use was made of the water to float the logs. In the winter, the sawmills reportedly keep the water heated. 50X1-HUM
3. The berths at Igarka are wooden and are built only for the season. They invariably are washed away in the spring thaw. The water is deep up to the bank. The Yenisei River is 22 feet deep up to Igarka but a pilot stated that traffic above Igarka is limited to six feet.
4. The number of icebreakers at Igarka is not known. The year 1950 was warm and the chartered ships had no difficulty in making any call.
5. Igarka is little changed from pre-war years. No precise details are available, however, as none of the masters or crews was allowed ashore. No one would live in Igarka by choice. Prison camps are under construction north of Igarka.

Dudinka

6. Dudinka (69-25N, 86-10E) is a new port of growing importance because of the coal which is being mined near there. It has berths for two large ships alongside, and four or five ships can anchor off and discharge into lighters. At the time of observation, two Soviet motorships were loading coal and three anchored off were discharging into lighters. There is a small river craft repair yard at Dudinka.

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7. Labor is scarce at Dudinka. The pilots drive winches to help and to augment their pay. Female labor is used extensively ashore but not on the ships. There have been vague reports of the existence of labor gangs with guards but no definite evidence of such gangs was obtained.

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